

In her presentation on Embodied Rhetorics, Professor Maggie Werner, read excerpts from her recently published book, *Stripped*, and discusses the numerous elements and overall complexity related to fundamentals of gender identity and sexuality. Her discussions and in-depth examples of visiting strip clubs were rather intriguing, especially since she herself mentions that women aren't generally supposed to be customers. Her in-depth look into the topics of transgender individuals and discrimination applies to the discussions of transgender athletes and the debate surrounding their eligibility to partake in sports because there is a shared inability to comprehend gender identity and the mindsets behind it. Professor Werner explains that most strip clubs are homophobic and transphobic because such individuals are "threats to male heterosexuality". We see similar arguments within the athletic world today, as several states are moving to specifically ban the participation of transgender females in interscholastic sports, with a severe lack of factual data to reinforce their decision. Embodied rhetorics could be helpful in making a more accepting environment, but at this point, the damage is already being done in numerous conservative areas of the US. That being said, embodied rhetorics in relation to transgender athletes could be beneficial in helping other to comprehend the basic aspects of human identity.